

DARLENE BYRNE

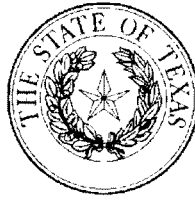
Judge
(512) 854-9313

KATY GALLAGHER-PARKER

Staff Attorney
(512) 854-4915

RENE R. SALINAS

Court Operations Officer
(512) 854-9870



126TH DISTRICT COURT

TRAVIS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
P. O. BOX 1748
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767
FAX: (512) 854-9780

ASHLEY BIXLER
Court Clerk
(512) 854-5846

MEANETTE SALGADO
Official Court Reporter
(512) 854-7848

APRIL MORTON
Judicial Aide
(512) 854-9300

To: Travis County CPS Counsels and CPS Court System Participants

From: Judge Darlene Byrne, 126th District Court

Date: May 9, 2013

Re: **Amended Procedure for De Novo Review**

Dear CPS Counsels and CPS Court System Participants:

Since October, 2011, our local practice in Travis County has required contested CPS hearings to be set and held in their entirety before the judge responsible for that family's CPS case, including Associate Judges.

De Novo reviews of Associate Judges' rulings are available upon request. Please be advised that a party seeking De Novo review in a CPS case must file their request for de novo hearing with the Clerk's Office in accordance with the law and must tender a copy of their request directly to my office for review not later than 5:00pm the next business day after it is filed.

As a practical matter, most De Novo reviews are handled by me primarily via submission of written documents and by review of the reporter's record, if available. The Court will typically issue a submission schedule and allow all parties the opportunity to submit a short brief highlighting matters they feel are relevant to the de novo review. If a party believes that a hearing is also necessary to present evidence or witnesses in relation to the issue(s) raised in the De Novo appeal, the party should submit an off-docket setting request form including a specific explanation as to why the hearing is necessary and the review cannot be accomplished solely via submission of written documents and judicial review of the record.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darlene Byrne".

Darlene Byrne
Judge, 126th District Court